S8895-1
8/26/88

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

VOL. 25 NO. 8 AUG. 1988

TREND SETTERS

WYOMING	May '88	June '88
Labor Force	233,553	238,782
Employment	220,495	227,268
Unemployment	13,058	11,514
Rate (Raw)	5.6	4.8
Rate (S.A.)	5.7	5.1
Mining Hourly Wage	$14.62	$14.86
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	43.1	44.0
USA		
Rate (S.A.)	5.6	5.3
Mining Hourly Wage	$12.52	$12.54
Avg. Weekly Hours, Mining	42.1	42.3
Consumer Price Index		
All Urban (1982-1984 = 100)		
U.S. City Avg.	117.5	118.0
Year Change (U.S.)	+3.9	+4.0

S.A.-Seasonally Adjusted

IN THIS ISSUE:

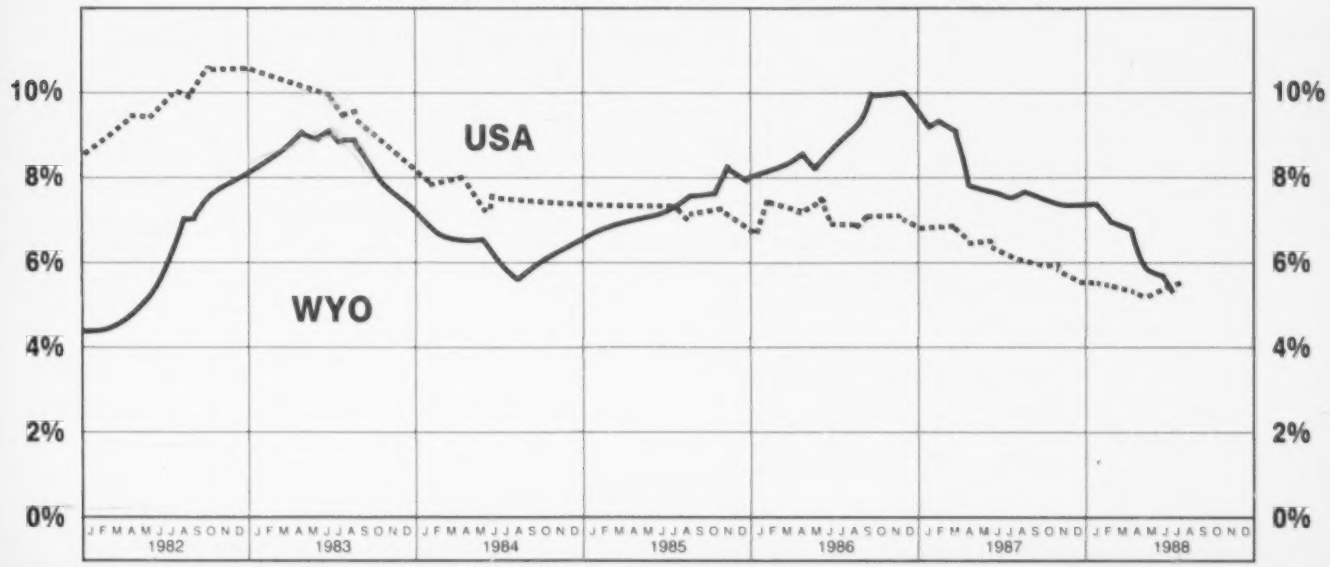
— Number of Unemployed in June Lowest Since 1981
— Wyoming Counties—A Ten Year Look

NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE STANDS AT 5.3 PERCENT IN JUNE

Around the the nation in June both the number of people out of work and the jobless rate declined from the previous month. During the month there were about 6.5 million unemployed, bringing the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate down to 5.3 percent, compared to 5.6 percent in May. This was the lowest figure since May 1974, when it was 5.1 percent. Last year at this time the unemployment rate was 6.1 percent.

Adult men were responsible for about three-fifths of the decline in June's unemployment, as their jobless rate fell to 4.6 percent. The rest of the decline occurred among teenagers, whose unemployment rate dropped two full percentage points to 13.6 percent. The unemployment rate for adult women remained at 4.9 percent. The rates for blacks improved somewhat (11.5 percent) and whites (4.5 percent), but the rate for Hispanics was unchanged at 9.0 percent. Although the rate for black teenagers fell by a dramatic six percent, to 28.4 percent, the measure was still far higher than the 12.0 percent rate for white teens.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, WYOMING AND THE U.S. (S.A.)



WYOMING EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION, Research & Analysis Section
Prepared in conjunction with U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

WYOMING'S UNEMPLOYMENT LOWEST IN SEVEN YEARS

or the fifth month in a row the statewide unemployment rate ontinued to drop sharply, to 4.8 percent seasonally unadjusted. his was the lowest rate for June since 1981, when the rate was .9 percent, and compares to a 7.7 percent jobless rate one year go. The Wyoming seasonally adjusted rate was 5.1 percent, little lower than the national rate of 5.3 percent.

STATEWIDE LABOR FORCE CONTINUES TO DWINDLE

he national civilian labor force in June continued to expand all industrial areas, but in Wyoming the opposite was true. Vyoming's labor force continued to contract. The state's labor orce in June, at 238,782, was up seasonally from May but was own by 6.3 percent from last year. The number of employed the state, at 227,268, was up 3.1 percent from May, about ,800 workers, but remained down by 3.5 percent from the June 987 level of 235,390.

uring the month of June, 20 of the 23 counties in Wyoming irrored the annual statewide labor force downturn. More ptimistically, there were slight year-to-year employment gains oted throughout the state in manufacturing, lumber and wood roducts, oil and gas extraction in mining, and hotel and lodging mployment in the services sector was up by 500 workers year-o-year. Other major industries in the state were at or below last ear's level.

TETON COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT UNBELIEVABLY LOW

he ongoing tourist boom in the Jackson, Wyoming area has ropped the unemployment rate there to an incredibly low 1.8 ercent in June. Additionally, Teton County continued to have he highest annual labor force growth in the state.

lot suprisingly, Natrona County again had the largest number f jobseekers in the state—about 1,600—but that was only half s many as last year, and a June unemployment rate of 5.2 ercent. In Laramie County there were about 1,500 looking for ork, with their unemployment rate standing at 4.0 percent. lbany County had the second lowest unemployment rate, with .7 percent. The highest unemployment levels in the state were posted by Sweetwater and Fremont counties, with 7.1 and 7.0 percent, respectively.

NATIONALLY, WYOMING UNEMPLOYMENT RANKS THIRTIETH

Wyoming's unemployment rate in May, 5.6 percent, gave the Cowboy State a national ranking of thirtieth position. The highest unemployment rate in May was garnered by Louisiana, with 10.5 percent. The lowest rate in the country was enjoyed by New Hampshire, with 2.1 percent. Regionally, Colorado had 6.4 percent; Idaho, 6.2; Montana, 6.9; Nebraska, 6.3; North Dakota, 3.7; South Dakota, 3.0; and Utah had 5.0 percent.

NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN JUNE LOWEST SINCE 1981

The number of people looking for work during June in Wyoming was at the lowest level since 1981. The June, 1988, unemployment of 11,514 was about 1,400 higher than 1981, but was down considerably from the 19,536 recorded in June, 1987. Unemployment reached an all time high for June in 1983 when 24,156 were considered unemployed.

Even though the 1988 figure rivals the numbers recorded during the "good" years, don't be mislead. Below are some of the possible reasons that explain how unemployment can be low even with a continuing sluggish economy:

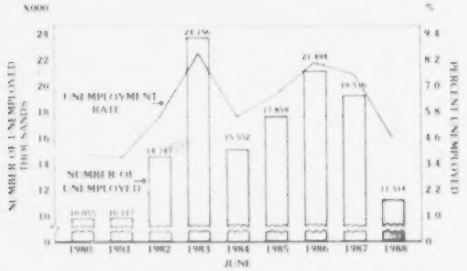
Out-migration -large numbers of unemployed workers have left the state to look for work elsewhere.

Discouraged workers - to be considered unemployed a person has to actively seek work. Many have given up that search and are not included in the labor force.

Tourism jobs - much of the hiring taking place in Wyoming is in service related areas due to an increase in tourism in the state. These jobs are typically seasonal, low-paying, and many are given to nonresidents of the state.

In the coming months, indications of an improving state-wide economy will not only include fewer jobseekers, but expansion in the number of people working over-the-year. Eventually those benefiting from growth in employment will be the unemployed that stayed in the state. Tough times never stay but tough people do and they will have less competition for jobs when they become available.

WYOMING
NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED AND UNEMPLOYMENT RATE*
JUNE 1980-1988



*Rate not seasonally adjusted

Source: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, in cooperation with Bureau of Labor Statistics, July, 1988.

Prepared by: W.E.S.C., Research and Analysis, July, 1988.

WYOMING COUNTIES . . . A TEN YEAR LOOK

Beginning with this issue of the "Trends" two counties will be highlighted each month based on information from Bearfacts, a fact sheet from the Regional Economic Information System of the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

ALBANY, WYOMING 1976-1986

Albany County's 1986 population of 29,400 ranked 6th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Albany had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $12,076. This PCPI ranked 12th in the state, and was 95 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 82 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Albany's PCPI of $5,197 ranked 23rd in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 8.8 percent, more than the state average (6.3 percent) and more than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Albany had a total personal income (TPI) of $354,599*. This TPI ranked 6th in the state and accounted for 5.5 percent of the state total. In 1976, Albany's TPI of $143,349* ranked 5th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 9.5 percent, more than the state average (9.0 percent) and more than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Albany increased from $108,045* in 1976 to $247,235* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 8.6 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were state and local government, which accounted for 43.6 percent of earnings; services, 18.7 percent; and retail trade, 9.8 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were state and local government, with 33.5 percent of earnings; services, 15.5 percent; and retail trade, 14.0 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was retail trade, which increased at an average annual rate of 4.8 percent; the fastest was state and local government, which increased at an average annual rate of 11.5 percent.

BIG HORN, WYOMING 1976-1986

Big Horn County's population of 12,300 ranked 14th in the state.

PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Big Horn had a per capita personal income (PCPI) of $9,556. This PCPI ranked 23rd in the state, and was 75 percent of the state average ($12,774) and 65 percent of the national average ($14,639). In 1976, Big Horn's PCPI of $5,295 ranked 21st in the state. The average annual growth rate of PCPI over the past 10 years was 6.1 percent, less than the state average (6.3 percent) and less than the national average (8.2 percent).

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

In 1986, Big Horn had a total personal income (TPI) of $117,841*. This TPI ranked 15th in the state and accounted for 1.8 percent of the state total. In 1976, Big Horn's TPI of $59,765* ranked 14th in the state. The average annual growth rate of TPI over the past 10 years was 7.0 percent, less than the state average (9.0 percent) and less than the national average (9.3 percent).

EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY

Earnings of persons employed in Big Horn increased from $44,935* in 1976 to $73,177* in 1986, an average annual growth rate of 5.0 percent. The largest industries in 1986 were state and local government, which accounted for 26.4 percent of earnings; transportation and public utilities, 13.7 percent; services, 9.7 percent; and construction, 8.7 percent. In 1976, the largest industries were mining, with 16.6 percent of earnings; state and local government, 16.2 percent; transportation and public utilities, 11.6 percent; and retail trade, 9.5 percent. Of the industries that accounted for at least 5 percent of earnings in 1986, the slowest growing from 1976 to 1986 was mining (7.7 percent of earnings in 1986), which declined at an average annual rate of 2.7 percent; the fastest was wholesale trade (6.1 percent of earnings in 1986), which increased at an average annual rate of 15.5 percent.

*All income estimates with the exception of PCPI are in thousands of dollars.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX - (1982-1984 = 100)

ALL URBAN

	ALL ITEMS	FOOD & BEVERAGE	HOUSING	ENTER-TAINMENT	APPAREL & UPKEEP	TRANSP.	MEDICAL
June 1988	118.0	117.6	118.6	120.1	114.6	108.5	138.2
Annual % Change	4.0	3.3	3.8	4.5	4.8	2.9	6.4

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 1

WYOMING ECONOMIC INDICATORS

ITEM	JUN 1988[1]	MAY 1988[1]	JUN 1987[2]	Percent change From A Month Ago	Percent change From A Year Ago
WYOMING EMPLOYMENT DATA					
Total Civilian Labor Force	238,782	233,553	254,926	2.2	- 6.3
Unemployment	11,514	13,058	19,536	- 11.8	- 41.1
Employed Labor Force	227,268	220,495	235,390	3.1	- 3.5
a. Covered Employment (Under Wyo. UI Law)[3]	172,400	167,500	177,899	2.9	- 3.1
b. Agriculture[3]	14,279	13,661	12,447	4.5	14.7
Total Unemployment Rate (Wyo.) Seas. Adj.*	4.8% 5.1%*	5.6% 5.7%*	7.7% 8.2%*	XXX	XXX
Total Unemployment Rate (U.S.) Seas. Adj.*	5.5% 5.3%*	5.4% 5.6%*	6.3% 6.1%*	XXX	XXX
Insured Unemployment Rate (Wyo.)[4]	1.8%	2.3%	2.7%	XXX	XXX
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 653.84	$ 630.12	$ 607.85	3.8	7.6
Average Weekly Hours	44.0	43.1	42.3	2.1	4.0
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 14.86	$ 14.62	$ 14.37	1.6	3.4
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE					
Claims Filed in Local Offices	15,330	19,394	26,410	- 21.0	- 42.0
a. Initial	2,167	1,936	2,669	11.9	- 18.8
Weeks Compensated	11,675	13,029	22,181	- 10.4	- 47.4
Total Amount Benefits Paid	$ 1,752,780	$ 1,939,046	$ 3,515,585	- 9.6	- 50.1
Average Weekly Benefit Payment	$ 149.57	$ 148.50	$ 158.04	0.7	- 5.4
EMPLOYMENT SERVICE					
New Applications Received During Month	N.A.	N.A.	4,675	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Openings Received	N.A.	N.A.	4,178	XXX	XXX
Non-Ag. Placements	N.A.	N.A.	3,759	XXX	XXX
UNITED STATES DATA					
HOURS & EARNINGS					
Mining (Production Workers):					
Average Weekly Earnings	$ 530.44	$ 527.09	$ 529.60	0.6	0.2
Average Weekly Hours	42.3	42.1	42.3	0.5	0.0
Average Hourly Earnings	$ 12.54	$ 12.52	$ 12.52	0.2	0.2
PRICE INDEXES					
Consumer Price Index 1982-84 = 100	118.0	117.5	113.5	0.4	4.0
Producer Prices, All Commodities 1982-84 = 100	107.4	106.5	103.0	0.8	4.3
Food and Beverage 1982-84 = 100	117.6	117.1	113.8	0.4	3.3

[1] Preliminary. [2] Final. [3] Not Benchmarked to the Current Population Survey. [4] Rate does not include claimants receiving benefits under extended benefit provisions.

Source: Wyoming Employment Security Commission and Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Table 2

WYOMING
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE & UNEMPLOYMENT

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

COUNTY	LABOR FORCE					UNEMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT RATE		
	JUN 1988	MAY 1988	JUN 1987	%CHANGE MAY-JUN	%CHANGE JUN-JUN	JUN 1988	MAY 1988	JUN 1987	JUN 1988	MAY 1988	JUN 1987
Statewide	238,782	233,553	254,926	2.2	- 6.3	11,514	13,058	19,536	4.8	5.6	7.7
Statewide Seasonally adjusted									5.1	5.7	8.2
Albany	15,939	16,144	15,928	- 1.3	0.1	424	526	622	2.7	3.3	3.9
Big Horn	4,763	4,830	4,976	- 1.4	- 4.3	295	344	487	6.2	7.1	9.8
Campbell	15,027	14,835	16,771	1.3	- 10.4	856	956	1,517	5.7	6.4	9.0
Carbon	8,295	7,803	8,927	6.3	- 7.1	464	581	693	5.6	7.4	7.8
Converse	5,321	5,489	6,007	- 3.1	- 11.4	334	359	526	6.3	6.5	8.8
Crook	3,474	3,377	3,489	2.9	- 0.4	166	168	242	4.8	5.0	6.9
Fremont	15,266	15,587	16,511	- 2.1	- 7.5	1,071	1,172	1,592	7.0	7.5	9.6
Goshen	6,384	6,351	6,692	0.5	- 4.6	299	338	430	4.7	5.3	6.4
Hot Springs	3,120	3,106	3,206	0.5	- 2.7	117	146	224	3.8	4.7	7.0
Johnson	3,867	3,520	3,927	9.9	- 1.5	138	171	284	3.6	4.9	7.2
Laramie	36,544	35,994	37,522	1.5	- 2.6	1,461	1,575	2,185	4.0	4.4	5.8
Lincoln	6,025	6,178	7,046	- 2.5	- 14.5	351	448	769	5.8	7.3	10.9
Natrona	30,296	30,576	33,182	- 0.9	- 8.7	1,563	1,850	3,189	5.2	6.1	9.6
Niobrara	2,014	1,934	1,966	4.1	2.4	72	73	118	3.6	3.8	6.0
Park	14,577	13,270	15,026	9.8	- 3.0	515	652	863	3.5	4.9	5.7
Platte	4,420	4,616	4,532	- 4.2	- 2.5	198	234	334	- 4.5	5.1	7.4
Sheridan	11,480	11,979	12,644	- 4.2	- 9.2	488	589	886	4.3	4.9	7.0
Sublette	2,665	2,600	3,179	2.5	- 16.2	172	171	318	6.5	6.6	10.0
Sweetwater	17,945	18,216	20,712	- 1.5	- 13.4	1,267	1,242	1,987	7.1	6.8	9.6
Teton	14,024	9,660	13,473	45.2	4.1	249	339	387	1.8	3.5	2.9
Uinta	9,477	9,384	10,936	1.0	- 13.3	616	661	1,160	6.5	7.0	10.6
Washakie	4,778	4,769	4,943	0.2	- 3.3	258	311	456	5.4	6.5	9.2
Weston	3,082	3,336	3,329	- 7.6	- 7.4	140	153	266	4.5	4.6	8.0
United States									5.5	5.4	6.3
United States Seasonally adjusted									5.3	5.6	6.1

*The data contained in this table includes updated procedures mandated by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. In addition the 1985 data has been benchmarked to the Current Population Survey as conducted in Wyoming.

Table 3

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

(Prepared in Cooperation with U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUN 1988[2]	MAY 1988[3]	JUN 1987	MAY 1988	JUN 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1988	to JUN 1988
WYOMING NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT					
Total Non-Farm Wage & Salary Employment	183.7	178.2	186.2	3.1	- 1.3
Manufacturing	8.2	8.0	7.7	2.5	6.5
Durable Goods	3.9	3.8	3.5	2.6	11.4
Nondurable Goods	4.3	4.2	4.2	2.4	2.4
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	175.5	170.2	178.5	3.1	- 1.7
Mining	17.7	17.6	17.4	0.6	1.7
Contract Construction	9.6	8.8	11.8	9.1	- 18.6
Transportation & Public Utilities	12.8	12.6	12.8	1.6	0.0
Railroad Transportation	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	0.0
Transportation except Railroads	4.8	4.7	4.9	2.1	- 2.0
Comm., Elect., Gas & Sani. Serv.	6.1	6.0	6.0	1.7	1.7
Wholesale & Retail Trade	40.8	39.0	41.3	4.6	- 1.2
Wholesale Trade	6.6	6.7	6.8	- 1.5	- 2.9
Retail Trade	34.2	32.3	34.5	5.9	- 0.9
Food Stores	4.9	4.8	4.8	2.1	2.1
Automotive Dealers & Serv. Stat.	5.2	5.0	5.3	4.0	- 1.9
Eating & Drinking Places	13.3	12.2	13.2	9.0	0.8
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	7.2	7.2	7.5	0.0	- 4.0
Services	35.7	32.0	35.1	11.6	1.7
Personal Services	1.8	1.9	1.8	- 5.3	0.0
Medical & Other Health Services	7.8	7.7	7.4	1.3	5.4
Government	51.7	53.0	52.6	- 2.4	- 1.7
Federal Government	8.1	7.6	8.2	6.6	- 1.2
State & Local Government	43.6	45.4	44.4	- 4.0	- 1.8
State Government	13.6	13.4	13.1	1.5	3.8
Local Government	30.0	32.0	31.3	- 6.2	- 4.2

(See Footnotes at End of Table)

NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT IN WYOMING [1]

Table 3 (Cont'd) *(Publication of Cheyenne data is not sanctioned by the Bureau of Labor Statistics)*

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT (In thousands)			% Change in Total Emp.	
	JUN 1988[2]	MAY 1988[3]	JUN 1987	MAY 1988	JUN 1987
	Total	Total	Total	to JUN 1988	to JUN 1988
CASPER (Natrona County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	26.3	26.5	27.1	- 0.8	- 3.0
Manufacturing	1.3	1.3	1.2	0.0	8.3
Nondurable Goods	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Petroleum & Coal Products	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	25.0	25.2	25.9	- 0.8	- 3.5
Mining	2.5	2.6	2.5	- 3.8	0.0
Oil & Gas Extraction	2.3	2.4	2.3	- 4.2	0.0
Other Mining, Quarrying, etc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0
Contract Construction	1.3	1.3	1.7	0.0	- 23.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	1.7	1.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.9	7.9	7.7	0.0	2.6
Wholesale Trade	2.3	2.3	2.3	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	5.6	5.6	5.4	0.0	3.7
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.4	1.4	1.5	0.0	- 6.7
Services	5.4	5.3	5.5	1.9	- 1.8
Government	4.8	5.0	5.3	- 4.0	- 9.4
Federal Government	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.0	- 14.3
State & Local Government	4.2	4.4	4.6	- 4.5	- 8.7
CHEYENNE (Laramie County)					
TOTAL NON-FARM WAGE & SALARY EMPLOYMENT	30.3	29.8	30.9	1.7	- 1.9
Manufacturing	1.1	1.1	1.1	0.0	0.0
Total Non-Manufacturing Employment	29.2	28.7	29.8	1.7	- 2.0
Contract Construction	1.9	1.8	2.1	5.6	- 9.5
Transportation & Public Utilities	2.4	2.4	2.5	0.0	- 4.0
Wholesale & Retail Trade	7.1	7.0	7.0	1.4	1.4
Wholesale Trade	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	6.4	6.3	6.3	1.6	1.6
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	1.8	1.8	1.9	0.0	- 5.3
Services & Miscellaneous	5.8	5.7	5.9	1.8	- 1.7
Government	10.2	10.0	10.4	2.0	- 1.9
Federal Government	2.7	2.7	2.8	0.0	- 3.6
State & Local Government	7.5	7.3	7.6	2.7	- 1.3

[1] Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers in non-ag establishments who worked or received pay during the week which includes the 12th of the month. Proprietors, self-employeds, domestic servants and personnel of the armed forces are excluded. [2] Subject to revision. [3] Revised figures.

RETURN IN 5 DAYS TO
Employment Security Commission of Wyoming
P O BOX 2760
CASPER, WYOMING 82602

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL
LAB 449

U.S.MAIL

T0155
Congressional Information Service, Inc.
4520 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

WYOMING
LABOR MARKET INFORMATION

WYOMING LABOR FORCE TRENDS

The *Wyoming Labor Force Trends* is published monthly by the Research and Analysis Section of the Wyoming Employment Security Commission.

Dick Sadler, Executive Director
Bill Davis, Chief, Research and Analysis
Gordon Wolford, Statistical Analyst
Mike Paris, Statistical Analyst
Velma Marks, R&C Assistant II

Please send comments, questions or address changes to Wyoming Employment Security Commission, Research and Analysis Section, P.O. Box 2760, Casper, WY 82602, Ph. (307) 235-3643.

Material in this publication is in the public domain and may be reproduced without special permission. We request, however, that statements not be quoted out of context or data presented in such a way as to mislead and that credit source be given.

ISSN 0512-4409